



B O R O U G H   O F   T I P T O N

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Dr. Eric C. Downer)

including that of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

(Mr. G. H. Acton, M.S.I.A.)

for the

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER

1941

Public Health Department,  
Municipal Buildings,  
Sedgley Road West,  
TIPTON.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Tipton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report, for a complete year as your Medical Officer of Health.

In accordance with Circular 2504 of the Ministry of Health, it is greatly abridged and is in fact an interim report. Tables have been made as small as possible and comment kept brief.

Instead of commenting in the Annual Report on all branches of your Health Services a practice has been followed of making special reports to the Committee concerned of any urgent Health matter. It is felt that this tends to quick action and to the attraction of the Committee's notice to the more important sides of the work.

Broadly, the health of the town remains good in spite of the grave stresses resulting from a state of War. Outwardly there has been little deterioration but it may be that the coming years will tell a sadder tale. The staff of your Public Health Department have had to devote a good deal of time to Civil Defence. This diversion, however necessary, takes us from the work to which we are most suited, to work at which we are all amateurs.

The town has on one occasion suffered from enemy action with fortunately few casualties and no damage which affected the Public Health Services.

I should like to pay tribute to the able assistance I have received from the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Dr. McWhirter, from your Chief Sanitary Inspector and his colleagues and from the Nursing staff. Your clerical staff have faithfully and keenly carried out their duties.

I should like to thank the Mayor, the Chairmen of the Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees and the members of the Council, for their constant encouragement and for the consideration and support they have given me throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,  
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

ERIC C. DOWNER.

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F.

As in last year's Report, but that Mr. J.S.Haworth, M.S.I.A., Additional Sanitary Inspector resigned and was replaced by Mr. G.H.Birch M.S.I.A., of Birkenhead. Miss N.J.Portman was engaged as temporary Shorthand Typist in the Public Health Department.

S T A T I S T I C S.

Area (in acres)	2617
Population (Census 1931)	36,814
Registrar General's Estimate of the population	
Mid-year 1941.	35,480
No. of inhabited houses, December, 1941	approx. 9,250
Rateable Value (31st. March, 1941)	£144,967
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£550

The following figures are provided by the Registrar General.

	M.	F.	Total
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Live Births

Legitimate	367	317	684
Illegitimate	5	8	13

Birth Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	19.64
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	M.	F.	Total
Still Births	10	4	14

Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) Births	19.83
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	M.	F.	Total
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Deaths

Deaths	257	201	458
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Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	12.91
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<u>Maternal Mortality Rate</u>	2.80
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<u>Infantile Mortality Rate</u>	75.57
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The number of visits paid during the year by Health Visitors:-

to expectant mothers	First Visits	238
	Total Visits	356
to children under 1 year of age	First Visits	699
	Total Visits	2757
to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years	Total Visits	4235

Attendances at all Welfare Centres.

No. of attendances by	Central Clinic		Burnt	Ocker	Tipton
	Session 1.	Session 2.	Tree	Hill	Green
1. Children under 1 year	1523	482	884	1189	2624
2. Children between 1 and 5 years	1020	240	703	823	849

The total number of children who first attended at the Centres during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were under 1 year of age was 506 representing 76% of the notified live births

Defects found in children attending the Centres

Debility	4
Malnutrition	1
Rickets	3
Overfeeding	5
Improper feeding	3
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	6
Skin Diseases	14
Enlarged tonsils and adenoids	1
Phimosis	7
Squint	5
Umbilical hernia	13
Crippling defects	1
Eye defects	9
Inguinal hernia	4
Miscellaneous	52
Constipation	7

The number of children under five years treated at the Minor Ailment Clinics was 203 of whom 171 were new cases and 32 were old cases. The total attendances numbered 1342.

The Ophthalmic Surgeon examined 18 children under five years of age. Among them were the following:-

Keratitis	1
Squint	4 of whom 3 required spectacles
Lachrymal Obstruction	1
Other conditions	7

There were 5 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year and of these 4 were removed to Hospital. In no case was vision impaired.

The Dental Clinic for children under 5 and for nursing and expectant mothers was held fortnightly because the numbers coming for treatment were so small. The number of children under 5 seen by the Dentist was 12 and total attendances for under fives were 15.

The number of children on the Child Life Protection Register

was 1 and the number of persons receiving children for reward at the end of the year was 1.

The Ante-natal Clinic is held on Friday afternoons. 279 women attended for examination during the year. The attendances totalled 586.

Under arrangements made with West Bromwich Corporation, 37 women were sent to Hallam Hospital for treatment for conditions complicating pregnancy.

The number of cases attended by midwives employed by the Tipton Nursing Association

as midwives was	95
as maternity nurses	6

The number of cases attended by midwives in private practice

as midwives was	476
as maternity nurses	26

During the year midwives summoned medical aid under the Midwives Act 1918, Section 14, Subsection 1, in 268 cases.

There were 4 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified during the year of which 1 was removed to Hospital.

One woman died in consequence of childbirth from sepsis representing a rate of 1.40 per 1000 total live and still births.

One woman died in consequence of childbirth but from a condition other than sepsis representing a rate of 1.40 per 1000 total live and still births.

The total Maternal Death Rate per 1000 live and still births was 2.80

Dental treatment for ante-natal and post-natal mothers was as follows:-

No. of ante-natal cases seen by dentist	) 18
No. of post-natal new cases seen by dentist	

Total attendances	65
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Detailed Causes of Death.

Disease	M.	F.	Total
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	-	1
Whooping Cough	6	3	9
Diphtheria	9	4	13
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	17	8	25
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	5	6
Syphilitic Diseases	1	-	1
Influenza	6	9	15
Measles	3	2	5
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	1	-	1
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M)			
Uterus (F)	3	2	5
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	6	7	13
Cancer of Breast	-	1	1
Cancer of all other Sites	16	10	26
Diabetes	1	2	3
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	21	17	38
Heart Disease	45	36	81
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	3	8
Bronchitis	16	18	34
Pneumonia	19	14	33
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	3	6
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	-	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	2	4
Appendicitis	-	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	9	6	15
Nephritis	9	3	12
Other Maternal Causes	-	2	2
Premature Birth	5	2	7
Congenital Malformations; Birth Injuries; Infantile Diseases	7	6	13
Road Traffic Accidents	3	2	5
Other violent causes	17	10	27
All other causes	22	23	45

The above Table of Deaths and Other Causes are given by the Registrar General

During the year there were 5 Male and 2 Female deaths due to enemy action.



Prevalence and control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of Notifiable Diseases. These differ to a small degree from the Registrar General's figures.

Disease	Number of cases notified	Number of Deaths. (Registrar General's figures)
Scarlet Fever	99	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1
Diphtheria	135	13
Measles	562	5
Whooping Cough	225	9
Pneumonia	122	33
Erysipelas	20	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	-
Paratyphoid	2	-

Analysis of notified cases of Infectious Disease  
according to Age Groups.

	Scarlet Fever	Cerebro-spinal Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Paratyphoid
Under 1 year	-	-	1	40	35	15	-	-	5	-
1 to 2 years	2	-	4	74	35	11	-	-	-	-
2 to 3	9	-	10	78	38	6	-	-	-	-
3 to 4	9	-	12	73	33	4	-	-	-	-
4 to 5	15	-	17	68	21	6	-	-	-	-
5 to 10	50	-	55	206	57	11	1	-	-	-
10 to 15	6	-	18	19	5	-	1	-	-	-
15 to 20	1	1	15	1	1	7	2	1	-	2
20 to 35	7	-	2	3	-	15	2	3	-	-
35 to 45	-	-	-	-	-	21	5	-	-	-
45 to 65	-	-	1	-	-	21	7	-	-	-
over 65	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-

There were 135 cases of Diphtheria with 13 deaths. Of these cases 20 were stated to have been immunised and 2 of the deaths were stated to have been immunised.



TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis											
Age Periods	New Cases						Deaths				
	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0-1yr.	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1
1-5yrs	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	1	1	2	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	2	6	8	-	-	8	1	2	1	2	6
25-35	10	11	21	1	1	2	2	5	-	1	8
35-45	3	7	10	-	1	1	4	1	-	1	6
45-55	5	3	8	-	-	8	5	-	-	-	5
55-65	2	-	2	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	5
over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

1941 was a year of fairly high incidence of Infectious Disease and Whooping Cough and Measles were prevalent in the early months of the year. During the first half of the year considerable difficulty was found at times in obtaining hospital accommodation for cases of Diphtheria but on the 1st October, 1941, the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board became the Authority responsible for the hospitalisation of cases of Infectious Disease and the situation was considerably relieved by the opening of their Hospital at Moxley.

The spread of Infectious Disease in the town has, we believe, been helped by the overcrowded state of the town. Although this is a neutral area the prevalence of enemy activity during the early part of the year and our proximity to vulnerable areas led to a voluntary influx of persons seeking safer accommodation. Moreover, workers for various industries were drafted into the area. Compulsory Billeting powers are not exercised in Tipton. The Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G.H. Acton is the Officer responsible for voluntary billeting. But there has been an influx of persons who have found themselves accommodation apart from official channels and the result is that the Health Department has no knowledge of the precise **number** of persons in the town and to what extent overcrowding is prevalent. The National Registration Office and the Food Office have this information but as the result of an excess of precaution are not permitted to divulge it, even in confidence to the Public Health Department for the fulfilment of whose tasks such information would be invaluable. It is felt that this overcrowding and our lack of knowledge of it are directly conducive to the spread of streptococcal and respiratory disease.

## AIR RAID.

On the night of 17/18th May, 1941, Tipton suffered to some extent from enemy activity, six persons being killed, eight seriously wounded and some thirty slightly so, and considerable destruction to residential property being caused.

One of the town's senior Medical Practitioners was killed and two midwives rendered temporarily homeless. The Casualty Services of the town worked to satisfaction.

Late in the previous year enemy action in an adjacent area had caused some slight damage to property in Tipton with an influx of homeless people in the Princes End district who were not re-housed in their own area at the end of the year.

## MIDWIVES.

Tipton is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts and during the early part of 1941, owing to illness among the midwives practising privately, and owing to the Tipton Nursing Association having in their employ at one time only one midwife, a very serious shortage arose. This was countered by the services of a midwife from an adjacent area being made available, by the raising of the number of midwives employed by the Tipton Nursing Association to three and by the Council's exercising its powers under the Defence Regulations to permit a midwife who had surrendered her certificate to resume practice for the time being. At the end of the year there were six midwives in full practice in the town and four others doing occasional cases. This was adequate to cope with the number of births. The Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Dr. E.P. McWhirter acted as Supervisor of Midwives.



### TYPHUS.

In accordance with the Ministry's Circular on the diagnosis and management of Typhus the Council purchased 12 suits of special clothing and a Squad has been organised under the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the handling and removal of any cases of Typhus. Similar arrangements have been made for the reception of Typhus from Tipton and adjoining areas at Moxley Hospital of the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board.

### MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

A most pleasant feature of a difficult year has been the cordiality with which the medical practitioners of the town have co-operated with the Public Health Department. By a series of personal letters all practitioners have been kept informed of the latest circulars affecting infectious disease; its hospitalisation; midwifery services; district nursing and other matters.

Your Medical Officer is prepared to, and does go out in consultation with practitioners in doubtful cases of infectious disease and is prepared to render what help he can to the practitioners of the town. Since the town was deprived of two senior practitioners by death in the middle of the year, it is, when considered on a population basis very short of practitioners.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Very close co-operation exists between the Public Health Department and the Tuberculosis Officer of the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Board. Doubtful cases are referred to him for examination and contacts encouraged to obtain examination and advice.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

A large campaign was initiated early in the year among the children in the town and as will be seen in the appropriate table 4423 were immunised during the calendar year. A satisfactory state of affairs has been reached as regards school children, of whom some 70% were immunised. It is urgently necessary that the children under 5 should also receive the benefit. The distribution of prophylaxis through the Government Emergency Laboratory has been of inestimable help.

### THE BOROUGH AMBULANCE.

The Borough of Tipton maintains one ambulance which is looked after at present and driven by the staff of the Fire Brigade. With the merging of the Fire Brigade into the National Fire Service a new arrangement will probably be necessary in the coming year.

### MORTUARY.

The town's mortuary and the emergency mortuary were both so damaged by enemy action as to be rendered useless. Temporary accommodation has been found at Bedford House next door to the Clinic. We view this choice with regret and trust that more suitable accommodation will be found in the very near future for this essential but lugubrious service.



# S L U M C L E A R A N C E .

## JOINT REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

No houses were dealt with under the Housing Act 1936 during the year. The following table shows the total number of houses dealt with under the Housing Act from 1931 to the commencement of the Scheme to 31st December, 1941.

	Total No. of houses	Total No. demolish- ed.	Total No. of persons displaced
91 Clearance areas	1321	1270	6201
Individual unfit Houses and Caravans in respect of which demolition orders have been made	488	457	2305
Parts of buildings in respect of which closing orders have been made	11	1	50
Individual unfit houses in respect of which undertakings have been accepted	3	-	18
Individual unfit houses and Caravans demolished in anticipation of demolition orders	5	5	23
Totals	1828	1733	8597

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary administration of the Borough for the year 1941. In accordance with instructions the report has been considerably curtailed.

During the year much time was devoted to problems of Civil Defence, especially in connection with Billeting, Food Decontamination, and organisation of decontamination services in connection with Civilian and Anti-Gas Clothing.

The Government Centralised slaughterhouse has, during the year, been structurally altered and equipped so as to provide modern and hygienic methods of marketing meat, and undoubtedly is a great improvement on pre-war slaughtering and preparation of animals for human consumption.

The need of more housing accommodation is becoming more urgent. The loss of accommodation through enemy action; the large increase of overcrowding cases; influx of war workers; and the number of newly married couples who are at present living with parents as sub-tenants, thereby in many instances causing serious overcrowding is making the problem a difficult one.

The problem of remedying the various sanitary defects to houses reported and found in course of routine inspection is very difficult owing to lack of labour and material and one can only endeavour to see that the most urgent defects are dealt with.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

The total number of visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors in the course of their duties totalled 4768. In addition 358 preliminary notices and 45 statutory notices were served under the Public Health Acts.

The total number of complaints registered during the year was 368 as against 362 in 1940.

#### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE

Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts.	415
Special Housing Inspections.	147
Re-Inspections	905
Visits under the Factory Act	61
Offensive trades.	16
Tents, vans and sheds.	7
Drains tested, repaired and cleansed.	286
Complaints	368
Miscellaneous inspections.	1582
	<hr/>
Total	3787

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No. of visits made by Sanitary Inspectors.	264
No. of disinfections carried out.	231

#### DISINFESTATION

During the year the household effects of 30 families removed to Council houses were disinfested with H.C.N. In addition 61 Council and 26 privately owned vermin infested dwelling houses were treated with insecticides.

# INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During the year 665 visits were paid to the centralised slaughterhouse by the Sanitary Inspectors who are all qualified Meat Inspectors. The number of animals inspected was 55,616 made up as follows:-

Beasts	7393
Calves	2407
Sheep	32451
Pigs	13365

The total amount of meat and other foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption was as follows:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Butchers Meat from Centralised slaughterhouse.	45	5	0	24
Fish.				12
Cheese.			2	7
Tinned Goods.		2	13	0
Bacon.				13
Rice.			1	22
Eggs. (52½ dozen)			2	24
Miscellaneous.			2	4
Total	45	8	1	7

The following information has been supplied by Major Green, Veterinary Officer in respect of the other Bacon Curing Factory situated in the Borough which is under his supervision.

No. of pigs slaughtered and inspected. 14566

Total amount of meat condemned:-    Tons    Cwts.    Qrs.    Lbs.  
    14        2        1        27



The undermentioned table shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned at the Government Centralised slaughterhouse. The percentage of the number of pigs inspected affected with tuberculosis again shows a steady decline, but the percentage of cows affected with tuberculosis and other diseases is very high and shows an increase over the previous years but this is probably accounted for by the Government's sound policy of eradicating old and worn out animals from the various herds.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.					
(Return as required by the Ministry of Health)					
	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed.	5741 (6470)	1625 (1920)	2407 (2213)	32451 (46358)	13365 (22733)
No. inspected.	5741 (6470)	1625 (1920)	2407 (2213)	32451 (46358)	13365 (22733)
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	6 (Nil)	15 (3)	6 (10)	73 (52)	30 (29)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	341 (406)	263 (249)	19 (13)	1043 (1674)	537 (995)
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	6.0 (6.3)	16.8 (13.1)	1.0 (1.0)	3.4 (3.7)	4.2 (4.5)
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4 (4)	23 (13)	2 (1)	Nil (Nil)	7 (23)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	362 (483)	806 (926)	7 (Nil)	Nil (Nil)	1050 (2112)
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with tuberculosis.	6.4 (7.5)	50.2 (48.9)	0.37 (0.04)	Nil (Nil)	7.9 (9.4)

(Government Centralised slaughterhouse under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors only)

( ) Figures for the year 1940.

48 applications for the renewal of the existing licenses to slaughter or stun animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act. were received. No new applications were received.

## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS

During the year, 64 visits were paid to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops and the premises were found on the whole to be in a clean, satisfactory condition. Alterations to pasteurising and sterilisation plants were carried out in four instances at the instigation of this department.

### Registration under the Milk and Dairies Act.

A. Retailers.	) Loose Milk.	17
	) Bottled milk only.	101
B. Producers, Dairymen and Wholesalers.		13

### Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The results of analysis of nine samples of milk taken by this Authority is given below:-

Designation	No. of Samples taken.	Cleanliness		Tuberculin Test	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Nega-tive.	Posi-tive
Pasteurised	3	2	1	2	-
Tuberculin tested (Pasteurised)	1	-	1	-	-
Accredited	1	-	1	1	-
Undesignated	4	3	1	4	-

All the pasteurised samples passed the Phosphate Test for pasteurisation.

In respect of the unsatisfactory samples, the Dairies were visited and investigation made,

The Dairymen unfortunately are at the present time carrying on under difficult conditions but endeavour to comply with suggestions made to ensure a cleaner milk supply.

The following details are given of samples obtained by the Staffordshire County Council:-

Designation	No. of samples sub-mitted.	Cleanliness		Tuberculin Test	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Nega-tive	Posi-tive
Accredited	1	1	-	1	-
Pasteurised	1	1	-	1	-
Undesignated	9	6	3	6	2

## FACTORY ACT

The number of primary visits made to Factories during the year numbered 30, and 12 revisits were paid. Notices were received from H. M. Inspector of Factories drawing attention to the contravention of the Act at 6 factories and sanitary defects at 11 premises were also discovered during routine inspection. The defects in 15 cases were remedied after informal notice.

Notice of 65 Outworkers employed by various firms in and outside the Borough were received. The home addresses of these outworkers were visited and no irregularities discovered.

## OVERCROWDING

During the year 57 new cases of overcrowding were reported and 8 cases were rehoused into Council houses making a total of 331 since the Overcrowding Survey taken in 1936. The total number of families living in overcrowded conditions at the end of 1941 is not available, but there is no doubt that the number is as high as the one recorded from the Overcrowding Survey.

## OTHER DUTIES.

Routine visits were paid to Schools, Cinemas, Canal Boats etc., and in the administration of the Shops Acts, but no outstanding irregularities were discovered.

I am,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

G. H. ACTON.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



